

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.
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Phil A. Halter, Editor.

AMONG THE SUBS.

Well, the hushers are being heard from. I had about given Joe Pfeifferkorn up as a backslider, and here he comes with seven. J. H. Branam of Vanduser, who has not been heard from in some time, brought in four. P. E. Daugherty, of Ance, who is always on the job, got in with four while Chas. Oliver gets credit for two.

Chaffee.—Louis Dohogne, Adam B. Schaefer, Wm. J. Belk, Commerce.—Wm. Lieble, Henry Schmitt, B. F. Edmonds, John Chandler.

Kelso.—August Halter, Joe Ressel, Otto Heisserer, Solomon Heisserer.

Oran.—Louis J. Legrand, Chas. E. Moore, Albert Rockett, George Reinagle, Fred Brucker, Benedict Scherer, E. L. Phelps, George Heisserer, J. C. Depriest, Mike Brucker, Sr., Leo Auch, Lawrence Schaefer, Jap McLeod.

Fornfelt.—Casper Eifert, Chas. Reynolds, Emil Eifert.

Ance.—Philip Geogren, Geo. W. Kenner.

Ilmo.—Fritz Sander.

Morley.—J. S. Thompson, Linson Dabbs, Wm. Beggs, Ed. Snider, J. A. Thompson.

Vanduser.—L. O. Williams, J. H. Branam, Henry Mayes, Geo. W. Layton, Kiefer Bros.

Sikeston.—S. W. Tel. Co., W. C. Bowman.

Benton.—John Beckman, Felix Scherer, N. J. Goudard, John Bles J. C. Walker.

Randies.—Frank Thomas, Jas. Schlosser, Peter Bollinger, Louis Kilhoffer, Leo Schmitt.

New Hamburg.—John Schmitt, Blodgett, J. N. Harrison.

Perkins.—Chas. Warner.

Fortageville.—John J. Klipfel, St. Louis, Jeff Tisdell.

W. F. Koch, Jacob Hill, Mrs. Ada Enos, Madison, Ill., Mrs. Francis Smith, Hardin, Ky., Ernest Clubb, Jansburg, N. D., Wm. Halter, Springfield, Mo.

A QUIET CHRISTMAS

The holidays passed off very quietly in the county, except for a couple of shooting scrapes in the prohibited territory to the south. Near Sikeston Ruben Ballard was shot by Robt. Fite and died in a Cairo hospital. There seems to have been a woman in the case and the Sikeston Herald says "that an amiable party had been drinking at the time of the shooting."

On Christmas day at Blodgett, Harry Stables, a restaurant keeper, shot Simon Huey, aged about 21 years, and the son of Uncle Lark Huey. According to reports young Huey and his brother were drinking and went into the Stables restaurant, where they got into a row with the proprietor, got him down and beat him considerably. When Stables got up he went for his pistol and the boys ran. Stables followed to the door and fired, the bullet striking Simon in the lower part of the back near the spinal cord. Huey was taken to Cairo and is reported to be getting along well. At Benton there was just nothing doing. Not even a fire cracker popped. The merchants were not quite so "religious" as usual and brought on no fire works of any kind. Hence we had a sane Christmas.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Several stockholders of the Kicker came here Friday to be present at the meeting and were agreeably surprised when told that the paper had paid the year ahead of the game—the first time since 1911.

It was in 1911 that the stock company was organized. During the first six months the paper prospered and indicated that a dividend of 20 per cent would be earned. The first six months showed a surplus of about \$250. It was then that the Scott county plunderbund set in to destroy the paper, and by December they had whittled this surplus down to \$50.

Each year thereafter showed a small deficit, which was carried over on the books, and last January this deficit had accumulated to \$815. Hence the directors and stockholders present felt good when told that the surplus of the year just closed would wipe out half of the deficit, and that the subscription list was growing.

All agreed to return home and begin to push. They said that most of the prejudice against the Kicker manufactured a few years ago was disappearing, and that it was much easier to get subscribers now.

P. E. Daugherty, Henry Roth, Sol Diebold, J. H. Branam and Phil A. Halter were elected directors for the present year.

OUT OF COURT

In its last issue the Kicker mentioned that the county court, in November, had allowed J. A. Finch one hundred dollars to assist in the prosecution of the case of the county ex-County Clerk McPheeters. I also stated that I would rather have that \$100 fee than all the county recoveries from the ex-county clerk.

At that time I did not know that this case was out of court. I may be a little slow in getting the results of our system of "whispering justice," but the papers that claim to make a specialty of court house news don't seem to get it at all.

On December 22 the old county court held its last session. At this term was filed by Circuit Clerk Arnold the cost bill in the McPheeters case, together with the information that the case had

been dismissed. The court appeared to be baffled. As the agents of the taxpayers of Scott county, they were the plaintiffs in the case, yet their attorneys had made no report to them as to what had happened. So they passed the cost bills over and refused to make the allowance. The new court can attend to that.

Since it is now all over with a review of this case may be of interest. About four years ago the county court contracted to have the books of the officials audited by Mare Bros., St. Louis. All of the officials resisted an audit by these recognized experts, and had the state auditor to take charge of the books.

A new law had just become effective whereby the state auditor could examine the books of a county when asked to do so by the county court, or when petitioned by the taxpayers. The county court had petitioned and circulated asking the auditor to take hold. The people wanted an audit and signed the petitions—not understanding that the real purpose was to ignore the county court and confine the investigation within "the party."

The state auditor sent several men here who started an investigation covering two years. After finishing the work the auditor reported an amount due from the county clerk's office of something over seventeen hundred dollars as I remember it—one-third of which was due the state and two-thirds was due the county.

Mr. McPheeters paid the part due the state immediately, but refused to pay the part the auditor said was due the county—and the county court, after waiting some time, filed suit to recover.

For about two years the case has been dragging, dragging, dragging, without apparently any hope for a trial. Now the case is out of court. The state got her money, and the auditor got about \$1,500 from us for making the audit. We got nothing except a bill of costs.

Will some defender of the "sanctity of the courts" and our "equality before the law" please explain how it was possible for Mr. McPheeters to owe the state's share and not owe the county's share?

Search the organs that claim to give the court house news and see if you can find any mention of the disposition of this case.

HERE AND YONDER

Just before the election last fall the cross-road newspapers that suggested the administration kept it constantly before the voters that the Democrats were "chaps of crime" and had perpetrated a "black list" that would be a "black list" of crime. I don't see anything about it in those organs now. The railroad workers were handed a beautiful polished gold brick, just as the Kicker said. The workers need not expect anything from the capitalist parties. They will get nothing they are not able to take. However, if anybody happens to see any fragments of that 8-hour law floating around, I hope they will carry the remains to my friend, Conductor Thomas of the Blue Goose—Wilson special.

At a supper at the Coker school house six miles north of the Cape last week, Wm. Nabe was stabbed to death by James Thompson, apparently without any cause. The two had some words in the school house and Thompson invited Nabe out. Both were young men. They went outside and were ordered off the school grounds. They clinched and fell with Nabe on top. Presently Nabe got up and when separated Nabe said he had cut that he died in a minute. He was 24 years old and of good family. Thompson is about the same age and is the son of a widowed mother, who faints when told what had happened.

The poor railroads divided up among their stockholders over a billion dollars for the year 1916. How much they might have been able to divide up if so many of the roads had not been looted from the inside is not known. A billion dollars! Do you know what that means? It means ten dollars for every person in the nation—or \$100 for every family of five. That is the tribute we pay to the private owners of railroads, and none of us escape. For the government to take over the roads and leave these profits in the pockets of all the people would, of course, break up the home and encourage free love.

W. J. Slinkard of the Bleda neighborhood was here Thursday and reports that his son Earle had come down from St. Louis to spend Christmas. For several months Earle has been in a railroad hospital in St. Louis. Last spring he moved his family to Springfield where he worked for the Frisco. In the fall while coupling cars, he got fearfully mashed up. He was taken to the hospital, and the wife and babies have been making their home with his parents. The father says he believes Earle will leave the hospital as good as new.

Thomas J. Belk and his son, Wm. J. Belk, of Rockview, were Kicker visitors Friday. Thomas is one of the old land marks of that end of the county, having settled there when land could be bought very cheap. With the assistance of his good wife he raised a very large family and put aside enough to keep them in their old age. The son, Wm. J., started the Kicker on its way to his sister, Mrs. Francis Smith of Hardin, Ky.

On Christmas day A. L. Powell was killed while at work on a dredge boat near Morehouse. He was working about the dipper,

when a piece of iron, weighing about 150 pounds, broke and struck him in the head. He was taken to a Cairo hospital and died that night. He was 35 years old and lived at Caruthersville, where he had a wife and two children. The remains were taken there for burial.

New Madrid county has used up all the funds, some seventy thousand dollars, in building a new court house, and wants \$40,000 more. So a bond issue was staged and an election held at which the people refused further indebtedness. Hence the politicians of that county were not as fortunate as those of Scott county. It didn't rain and the farmers were heard from.

George Reinagle of near Oran was a Kicker visitor last week. He said he saw in the Kicker where Henry Eichinger was trying to take the ribbon from him as the long distance walker, but it was no use. He had walked from the Frank Heisserer place that morning and expected to be home by noon—a distance of 14 miles.

J. N. Harrison of the Pleasant Valley neighborhood, was here Monday. He complained of the poor prospects for wheat in the sand country and says he never saw wheat so bad. Last year Mr. Harrison raised a profitable melon crop and took the premium at the Sikeston fair with a ninety pound melon.

John Schmitt of New Hamburg parish was here Monday. He said the young folks serenaded him the night before and spent an hour from midnight to 1 o'clock at his home and had a good time.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brucker, who live below Oran, got tired of rabbits and came up last week to help his father, Mike Brucker, kill hogs. Thursday Fred came in and got a Kicker calendar.

Clydes and Will Edmonds of Commerce were here Saturday and reported their father, B. F. Edmonds, who was stricken with paralysis a year ago, as getting along very well.

G. W. Bowman, Amos McMullin and W. H. Bailey of near Morley were here Tuesday. Mr. McMullin has moved from the Ballentine place near Commerce to the old home place on Mullins Island.

S. L. Lewis of near Chaffee was a Kicker visitor Thursday. His daughter, Mrs. Ada Enos, of Madison, Ill., had come down to see all the holidays with the folks at home.

Louis Dohogne of near Chaffee and Louis Kilhoffer of Rockview were Kicker visitors Thursday. Mrs. Frank Schmitt and son Joe, of Kelso, were with his mother, Mrs. Matilda Schmitt.

Leo Schmitt and family of Randies came over and spent Christmas with home folks.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hahn of Sals Creek were at Chaffee Saturday.

Will Essner and son Nick were at Benton on Thursday of last week.

John Linhart and daughter, Miss Anna, were at Chaffee last week. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schmitt and son Joe, of Kelso, were with his mother, Mrs. Matilda Schmitt.

The infant of Mr. and Mrs. John Dimberger Jr. is reported very sick.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Gosche.

Joe Pfeifferkorn butchered Tuesday.

FROM ROCKVIEW.
Thos. G. Belk and Jack Garnet butchered Saturday, and August Schlegel killed Thursday. They may as well prepare for plenty of company.

A big boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Hips on Friday. He now spends most of his time with his head in the rain barrel yelling "son, son!"

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Belk spent Xmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Miller of Ellis. They were accompanied home by Miss Ara Miller.

Mrs. V. Betts of Charleston visited her brother, Fred Praetor, last week and while here rented her place to Otto Tucker.

The Misses Agnes and Etta Barberry and Alice and Edna Barberry of Belkville attended on entertainment at the school house.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schlegel of Ance came over to visit their son August last week.

The Christmas tree and entertainment at our school house Dec. 23 was a success.

Three train loads of soldiers passed through here Sunday going east.

Frank Felden has returned from a visit to his son Wm. in Arkansas.

Mrs. Murrell Snider of Delta visited Mrs. Wm. Welty last week. In a butting contest with his goat, Ral Davis got a black eye.

Mrs. Ed. Fisher, who is sick at Mrs. Frank Felden's is improving. Miss Clara Peters of Glenn Allen spent Saturday and Sunday here. A fine horse of Sim Jones died of lock jaw Sunday.

him soon.
Ed. Todd and family spent Sunday with the family of A. M. Rockett.

Mrs. John Sietman visited home folks at Idalia Christmas.

FROM NEW HAMBURG.
Frank Schoen of Texarkana came up to spend the holidays with his mother, Mrs. Rosina Schoen, and spent Thursday last week with his uncle, Sol Diebold. Frank is a steady young man and has worked his way up to a position of \$80 per month with the railroad company.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schonhoff of Cape spent Christmas week with her father, Sol Diebold, and on Friday visited her grand-father, Uncle Jake Diebold, at Scherer-ville.

Mrs. Albert Vetter and children of Bell City spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Dimberger.

Louis Jacob, Theon and Leon Schitter spent one day last week with the family of John Schitter in the swamps.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Stricker and little son, of Charleston, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Dimberger.

Mrs. Nick Legrand and son Kermit of Arkansas, are here visiting her mother, Mrs. Theresa Gerst and other relatives.

Theodore Hamm, son of John Hamm left for California, to make his home with his aunt, Mr. Hamm's sister.

Albert Goetz butchered Wednesday and Philip Westrich on Thursday, and the odor of fresh wurst is all about.

George Gosche of Oran, and Arthur Mier and Martin Halter of Bleda attended church here on Christmas.

Leona Glaus spent a few days last week with her grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Goetz.

Miss Regina Lieble of Kelso spent the week with her sister and family, Mrs. Chas. Diebold.

Mrs. Adam Motsch of Farmington, Mo., is here visiting her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Schindler.

Miss Dora Goetz spent Christmas week at Luxenburg with her sister, Mrs. Wm. Lieble.

Louis Diebold and son Theo, of Pierce City, Mo., spent the holidays here among relatives.

Thos. Schenck of St. Louis spent Christmas here with his mother, Mrs. Matilda Schmitt.

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FROM HILLDALE.
The Misses Addie and Lola Britt of Crono visited their aunt, Mrs. A. M. Rockett, last week, returning home Saturday. Miss Hattie Britt was also home for Xmas.

Chas. Hitt has moved back to the sand, and M. G. Bryant occupies Mr. Hitt's place. Geo. Bryant has moved back on his farm near Morley.

Tony Williams butchered last week. All of the neighbors are expecting an invitation to visit

FROM FORTNELL

The holidays were saddened by the sudden death of Dr. S. A. Mayfield on Wednesday of last week. Dr. Mayfield had just returned from a visit to a patient in the country about noon, and was sitting in his home when suddenly he was stricken with apoplexy, which resulted in his death almost immediately. He was sixty years old and leaves a widow and several grown children. The burial was at Cape Girardeau on the following day.

The capitalist Santa Clause is very liberal in handing out the toy pistols and explosives to train the minds of the young towards militarism. Frank, the 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Geb Martin, got a little pistol, and in trimming down a cartridge to fit, the thing exploded and the ball lodged in little Frank's arm.

David Gramling has returned from a long visit to Detroit, Mich., and reports that the Ford Auto Co. had bought iron mines near their factory and would cease to pay profits to the steel trust, which may result in a further reduction in the price of the little old Fords.

Everett Beisswingert, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Beisswingert, and Miss Cecil Spradlin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Spradlin, were married at Jackson on the day after Christmas. Both families live in the hills a few miles south of here.

The heavy rain washed so much mud on our paved street that it took Chas. Rahmiller, Wm. Hubel and L. Greer a half day to remove the worst of it.

Louis Bruns, a Cotton Belt fireman, spent Friday and Saturday visiting relatives at Benton and Morley.

Mrs. J. F. Farmer spent the holidays with relatives at Argenta, Ark., and Miss Georgia Binder spent Xmas with her grand-parents at Whitewater.

Sunday the box factory men were kept busy making and shipping boxes for the John Morrell packing house.

Miss Julia Chelwing of Blodgett spent Christmas here with the family of Chas. Owensby.

John Hahn visited his mother in Illinois Christmas.

FROM ANCELL.
Our town has a real kick. We have six passenger trains daily, and but two of these stop for passengers. The depot is closed at night, and the telegraph service has been moved to Fortnell. If we want to take a night train either north or south, we must first go to Fortnell and buy a ticket, and passengers are not allowed to enter trains without tickets, and the depot here is closed at night. Our business people are as sore as an eye with a hot cider in it, and don't seem to realize that they are getting just what they voted for. They don't want any government ownership of railroads. What they want is private ownership—and then kick because the private owners run the roads in their own interest instead of the public's.

Abner Greer drove to the Cape Friday and was accompanied home by his mother-in-law, Mrs. Hall, who spends most of her time visiting among her children.

The new ware house being erected by Joe Diebold, the Kelso miller, will soon be finished. We hope to be benefited, as it will give us two wheat buyers.

Cotton Belt Agent Rudy will probably take a job with the Iron Mountain, at Fayetteville, Mo. We regret his going but wish him success.

John Klughart went to St. Louis Monday with his little deaf and dumb daughter to reinstate her in school.

Chas. Greer and family visited at the P. E. Daugherty home Saturday and Sunday.

FROM LUXENBURG.
Christmas evening a steam mule hitched to a buggy was seen going in the direction of the Wm. Lieble home. As Miss Dora Goetz was there, it must have been a Sals Creek youngster.

Mrs. Wendoline Scherer and daughters Olevia, Theckla and Loretta, and little son Herman, of Scherer-ville spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Enderle.

The marriage of Miss Bertha Enderle of Kelso parish and John Scherer of Benton parish was announced Sunday to occur on January 9.

Joe Ressel of Kelso spent the noon hour Christmas with his best girl, and from there they went to George Gluecks and spent the evening.

Elsie Ross and family and E. J.

Ross and family of Fornfelt took Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Ross.

Mrs. John Seyer and daughter, Miss Clara, and Mrs. Joe Welter, visited with Mrs. Wm. Lieble.

John Scherer of Scherer-ville, and Albert Enderle were over in Stoddard county last week.

Mrs. Wm. Welter of Ance spent New Year's day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Welter.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Seyer Sunday with the Joe Welter family. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lux spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Lux.

Mr. and Mrs. John Glasser and Mrs. Wm. Carvick and children Sunday with the family of Joe Seyer.

FROM HEAD DISTRICT.
About a year ago Miss Elizabeth Coleman, accompanied her brother Martin to Washington, D. C. Recently she went to Iowa, and from there to St. Louis, where she was met by Jesse Miller of Macedonia, where they were married and returned home, much to the surprise of all of us.

Miss Nellie Bates spent Xmas day with Wm. Roth and family, and August Musbach visited the Henry Eifert family, while Miss Nellie Bratzel, spent Sunday and Monday with the Paul Eifert family.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Schlegel and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Springer spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

FROM ELLIS.
The other day Master H. H. Wilkerson rode in an auto to where his father was busy at work, and then refused to ride back in a wagon because it was so common.

Dewey Miller and Arthur Schmitt visited Will Hawkins Sunday, and Joe Hawkins is visiting in Arkansas.

Mrs. Grace Jones and children have gone to St. Louis where her husband has employment.

Henry Koch and family visited the August Springer family Sunday.

Miss Annie Spradlin and Henry Schmitt are sick.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Miller are visiting home folks.

FROM MULLIN'S ISLAND.
John Evans visited relatives at Caruthersville last week, and Miss Madge Brock of Caruthersville is visiting her aunt, Mrs. A. A. Evans.

By working eight hours and some overtime Sunday, F. Brown coaxed his little Maxwell to ramble some.

Miss Lora Evans spent the holidays at the Cape with her mother, Mrs. Viola Derrington.

Miss May Watson, who had been sick for some time, died Thursday of last week.

Mrs. Martha Simmons spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Evans.

FROM BLODGETT.
Frank Murray of the river bottom has moved into the John Marrs property and Mr. Marrs moved to the south part of town.

Mrs. Jerry Frazer spent Xmas with her brother, Jettie Boardman, at Sikeston.

Mrs. Dee Simpson and daughter, Miss Beulah, spent the holidays visiting friends in the Owensville district.

Mrs. John Walton is in Cairo to have an operation performed. Her son Jesse went over Sunday.

Miss Lillie Smith, who attends high school here, spent Christmas with her parents at Patton, Mo.

Mrs. Blanch Smith of Deatur is here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Graham.

Miss Celia Hatcher spent last week in Morley visiting her aunt, Mrs. Chas. Murphy.

Miss Lessie Reams of Fredericktown is visiting her sister, Mrs. Gabe Green.

John Austin and family have moved back from Little Rock, Ark. Miss Grace Ferguson of Benton visited friends here last week.

(The correspondent sends in an account of a lottery held Monday in which \$75 in gold was distributed, but it is a violation of law to print the winners. The capital prize was \$50. But don't shoot craps)—Editor.

FROM BELL CITY.
August Schlitt killed five hogs last week and Pete Green butchered six. Our Scott county neighbors are not the only ones who have wurst.

The holidays passed off quietly here, the only accident happening to a boy who lost an eye from explosives.

The infant of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Surface died of pneumonia. There are several cases of whooping cough here.

Chas. Margrave and family are preparing to move to Chaffee soon. We regret to lose such good neighbors.

Miss Guilla Enderle of near Blodgett spent Christmas with the John Eifert family.

Uncle Jack McKinley, who has been sick for some time is still in a critical condition.

Mrs. Jess Lozenby underwent an operation last week and is getting along nicely.

Dan Uphoff, and sister, Ophelia, spent Sunday evening with Miss Ruth Keller.

Wm. Frederick visited his wife at Farmington, who is there for treatment.

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